#### JOHN McCAIN ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

September 15, 2004

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303 (202) 224-2235

> 4450 SOUTH RURAL ROAD SUITE B-130 TEMPE, AZ 85282 (480) 897-6289

> > 2400 EAST ARIZONA BILTMORE CIRCLE SUITE 1150 PHOENIX, AZ 85016 (602) 952-2410

450 WEST PASEO REDONDO Suite 200 Tucson, AZ 85701 (520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED (202) 224-7132 (602) 952-0170

RECEIVED BUREAU OF

Mr. Gary Stumpf Bureau of Land Management 222 North Central Avenue AZ931 Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203

910 EEO 91013 911 CC 912 917 930 LAND MANAGEMENT 950 Field Office SEP 16 2004 Central Files FOG Action: PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Bureau of Land Management

Arizona State Office

Phoenix, Arizona

**RESOURCES - 932** STATE OFFICE

Dear Mr. Stumpf:

who has submitted a I wish to bring to your attention a matter concerning request to protect BLM property in Goodyear.

Because the situation is under your jurisdiction, I am respectfully referring this matter to you for consideration. I feel that this issue would be better addressed by you and request that you respond directly to Ex. 6

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John McCain

United States Senator

JM/ztm Enclosure

(4.888.25 附 5 7)

The Honorable John McCain 2400 E. Arizona Biltmore Circle Ste 1150 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Dear Senator McCain:

First and foremost, I would like to state that I am a staunch supporter of Luke Airforce Base, I support the men in uniform, the Police and Firemen who have sacrificed their lives over the course of the last seventy five plus (75+) years. My father was in WWI, I was on the Lexington in WWII, my stepfather was in WWII (Europe), my godfather was killed in the Pacific in WWII, my son was Air Force and I am also a licensed pilot.

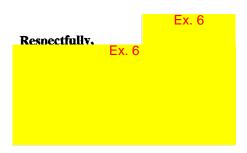
My reason in writing this letter to you is for another purpose at this time. I have lived in Glendale, Arizona, since my retirement from the Police Department and short hiatus as a businessman on Long Island, New York, moving to an area that was beautiful wide open spaces and had not been "found" yet. It was my wifes' and my dream. A year and one half ago, because of the encroachment of progress, we moved to Estrella Mountain Ranch and purchased a home (hopefully our last) to again find the "wide open spaces" that we love. Across the street from us is approximately one hundred thirty (130) acres of BLM property. This area is not in the Luke Fly Zone. It is so beautiful at night to look out and see the lights of the City of Goodyear and beyond. The jets from Luke fly over on their training flights and it's a good feeling to know they are there.

We have now been told that the possibility is there for this land (BLM property) to be exchanged and to build homes there.

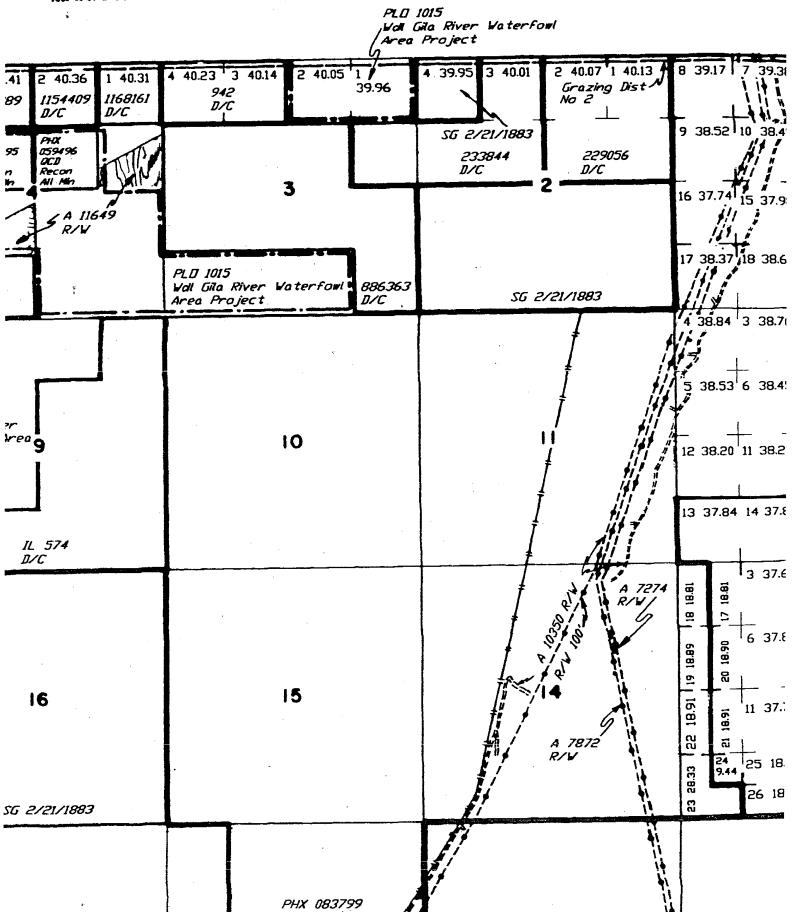
I have attached for your review a petition signed by over 400 residents (of voting age) of this area, who feel as I do about this BLM property and its open space. It was part of our purchasing of these homes, and paying extra for the land. I advised them I would be sending this petition to the City of Goodyear Council and to our State and Federal Government Legislators for review and they all said "GO FOR IT." I have attached maps of the areas in question and have highlighted them in yellow.

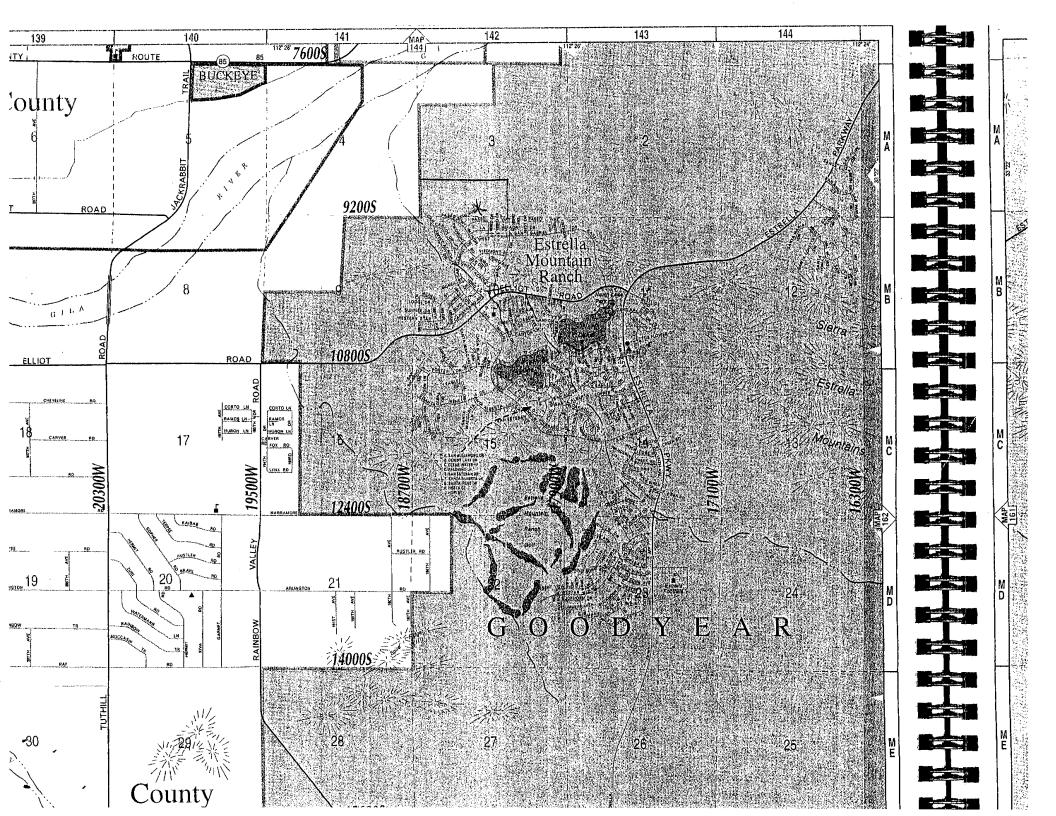
On a more personal note, I have included another picture I have had for you, Senator McCain, that I thought you might enjoy. It was taken on one of our vacations visiting a Carrier.

Thank you for your time out of a very busy schedule to read our letter and look over the area maps and possibly help us resolve an issue.



August 22, 2004







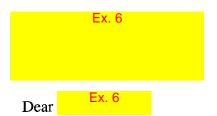
## United States Department of the Interior

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Arizona State Office 222 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004

In Reply Refer To: 2200 (AZ931)

www.az.blm.gov





Senator John McCain shared a copy of your August 22, 2004, letter regarding land exchange proposals to save Luke Air Force Base (Base) and has provided my agency with an opportunity to respond to you directly. I would like to first thank you for your interest in the preservation of public lands and open space, and also acknowledge that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received proposals for a land exchange in the area you identified in your letter.

The Base plays a vital role in our national defense and military preparedness. However, the encroaching development you mention in your letter now poses a threat to the Base's ability to carry out that essential mission. The 4,200 acres housing the Base are no longer adequate to protect the public from active military operations and associated noise.

The Governor's Military Facilities Task Force Report of December 2003, as well as the Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base Regional Compatibility Plan published in March 2003, demonstrates the need to acquire additional lands to preserve the Base. Section 5.3 of the Governor's report also identifies the need for Congressional assistance to facilitate a land exchange involving the BLM to acquire lands adjacent to the Base to prohibit further encroachment and allow the relocation of willing sellers who currently own property within the 65 Ldn noise contours. There is further support for a land exchange in the form of adopted resolutions from the State Legislature, Maricopa County, the cities of Phoenix, Peoria, Avondale, Goodyear, Glendale and Surprise, the Town of Buckeye and the WESTMARC Association.

The BLM is supportive of Governor Napolitano's initiative to protect and ensure the long-term retention of Arizona's premier military facilities and is open to reviewing all submitted proposals. However, the BLM public lands referenced in your letter, while identified in a proposal from the Luke Preservation Trust for exchange, are not identified for disposal in the existing land use plan. The majority of those lands located in

T. 1 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 3, S1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4 are currently withdrawn to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the Gila River Waterfowl Project, under Public Land Order 1015.

The BLM hopes to develop a partnership with the State of Arizona, Department of Defense, United States Air Force, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the private sector to further explore land exchange options to achieve the goals of the Governor's initiative, while continuing to provide open space for public use and enjoyment. We encourage your continued interest and participation in these efforts.

I hope this information proves helpful. If you have additional questions, please contact Teri Raml, BLM-Phoenix Field Office Manager, at 623-580-5500.

Sincerely,

### /s/ Carl Rountree

Elaine Y. Zielinski State Director

cc: The Honorable John McCain United States Senator 2400 E. Arizona Biltmore Circle Suite 1150 Phoenix, Arizona 85016

bcc: BLM Phoenix Field Office

**BLM External Affairs** 

Ex. 6 sw:10-15-2004